



City of Rockville

MEMORANDUM

January 20, 2004

TO: Catherine Tuck Parrish, Acting City Manager

FROM: Eugene H. Cranor, Director of Public Works
Lawrence Marcus, Chief / Traffic & Transportation Division

SUBJECT: January 12, 2004 Traffic & Transportation Division Report on Action Items

I. Pedestrian Safety

Staff will be presenting successes of pedestrian safety initiatives and pedestrian –related development review techniques at the American Planning Association Annual Meeting in April and at the National Congress of Pedestrian Advocates Conference in May. Both conferences will be held in the Washington metropolitan area this year.

1. Countdown Pedestrian Signals

Forty LED countdown pedestrian signal heads were delivered on November 3. Priority locations will include the Town Center, metrostations and schools. Since delivery, 20 signal heads were installed on N. Washington Street, at East Montgomery (8), Middle (8), and Beall (4).

2. Pedestrian Advance (4 second all red) at Select Town Center Intersections

City traffic engineering staff has implemented “pedestrian advances” along North Washington Street, stopping traffic in all directions for four seconds to allow pedestrians time to enter the street safely. By allowing the pedestrian to advance first into the intersection, drivers can more easily see the pedestrians in crosswalks. The new timing took effect March 28.

Wootton H.S. / Wootton Pkwy. signal was modified with the pedestrian advance on May 20.

The program has been a total success, no complaints from drivers, improved safety for pedestrians.

3. Special Pedestrian Signals / All Red Phases

Wootton Pkwy. / Rockshire Shopping Center

Complete,
Full Color, pedestrian activated all red.

Stonestreet / Metrorail Parking Lot

Complete

Redland Blvd./Thompson Dairy

Complete.

Baltimore Rd. / Rockville H.S.
Hurley Avenue / Watts Branch Pkwy.

Funded by MCPS as Part of Redev.
Supported by Mayor & Council (6/30/03)
as part of bike bridge project; FY 05

4. Crosswalk Enhancements

On March 20, Montgomery County DPW&T and City staff agreed to partner in installing two in-pavement illuminated crosswalks as pilot projects to improve pedestrian safety at Chapman Avenue (near Twinbrook Metrorail Station) and Twinbrook Pkwy. / Twinbrook Rec. Center.

The jurisdictions will each pay for one installation. The implementation schedule includes:

- a. collect existing condition data (spring / summer)
- b. Re-surface roadways (summer)
- c. Install in-pavement lights (prior to school openings fall 2003)
- d. Collect post-installation data on effectiveness

The County completed installation of an illuminated, in-pavement crosswalk on Twinbrook Parkway. The crosswalk provides access to the Twinbrook Recreation Center. The system will be operational within the next two weeks. On September 3, our staff will conduct a “before” study of conditions, including counts, driver & pedestrian behavior. *A press conference will be held on January 21 at this location, including Doug Duncan and Mayor Giammo.*

Staff has chosen a vendor to install an in-pavement illuminated crosswalk. Chapman Avenue was resurfaced the week of October 27 in preparation for the device. *Installation underway, as of January 5. Completion date depends on weather conditions.*

The week of October 27, phase 1 of temporary striping / markings was installed by the Fallsgrrove Shopping Center s to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety. Phase 2 occurred in November. The delineations are consistent with the long-term plan for the community. The delineations are temporary in nature (painted) due to the fact that the roads are currently owned by the developer and still require a final top coat of asphalt. Parking restrictions were included in the signing / marking work.

Eight to ten crosswalks were striped at intersections throughout the City, as part of our regular maintenance efforts the week of October 27. Darnestown / Glenn Mill was upgraded from a traditional border to a ladder pattern. Wootton High School vicinity crossings were also maintained.

5. State Review of Rockville Intersections

The following pedestrian issues are pending on state facilities. These improvements and time frames were outlined by MD SHA District 3 at the October 7 work session.

- a. MD 28 / MD 189: install pedestrian signals (State completed work 8/13/03)
- b. Add crosshatching at 8 intersections along MD 355: MD 28, Monroe, Middle, Beall, Hungerford Plaza, N. Washington, Gude, Redland. Middle and Beall Avenue (most work complete).

- c. MD 28 /Shady Grove Road: install pedestrian improvements on north leg (Design underway, Spring 2003) Crosswalk striping complete, one of two pedestrian head installed, bagged (July 11). *County scheduled to activate device by Jan. 30.*
- d. MD 189 / Falls Chapel: ped. signal (*Installed December 2003, bagged*). *County scheduled to activate device by Jan. 30.*
- e. MD 189 / Kersey: ped signal (*Installed December 2003, bagged*). *County scheduled to activate device by Jan. 30.*
- f. Re-examine the elimination of the “hot right” off ramp configuration at NB I-270 to EB MD 189 (on-hold due to funding constraints).
- g. Coordinate with county the adjustment of signal timing to increase crossing times for pedestrians. The week of March 3 the County corrected 15 of 20 intersections – adjustments confirmed by staff.

6. Red Light Cameras

Cameras at Redland / Gaither (eastbound) and Redland / Pleasant (westbound) were completed the week of June 16 at EB Redland/Gaither and WB Redland/Pleasant. The cameras are operational. An overview of the red light camera program may be found on the City website. Staff is working with Howard and Montgomery County to upgrade the red light camera technology from wet film to digital. The upgrades will occur over the next 3-6 months. *Staff met with representatives from contractors and counties on January 8.*

Keeping in mind that the goal of the red light camera program is to reduce red light violators, two locations have successfully dropped in violation rates over the past few months. Because of these low number of citations issued at Wootton/Seven Locks and Redland/Pleasant, staff is considering removing the red light cameras at these locations. Staff is evaluating replacement locations based on accident data, pedestrian safety issues, and input from the police department.

7. City Funded Pedestrian Projects

- a. Darnestown Road, south side, from Glenora Lane to Windy Knoll Ct: sidewalk. Met with County staff on June 24 to discuss options. Follow-up meeting with County staff 7/23. County and City staff agreed to pursue a traffic signal at Glenora Lane and Darnestown Road. Signal has met MUTCD warrant test. Staff met with the Glenora Hills Civic Associations on November 5 to discuss improvement along Darnestown Road. Staff met with County officials on December 10 to continue engineering the potential signal and sidewalk. Met with Falls Grove citizens transportation group on December 17 to discuss next steps. Group would rather have signal at Windy Knoll, consistent with Glenora Hills request.
- b. Argyle Street sidewalk (Early winter 2003-4, begin design).
- c. Beall Elementary School Vicinity, sidewalk improvements, curb & gutter (Spring 2004).

8. Traffic Controls

Throughout the City, traffic volumes continue to rise. As these volumes reach thresholds warranting traffic controls, such devices will be installed for pedestrian and vehicular safety.

- a. The week of November 18, Monroe / Courthouse Square received 3-way stop signs.
- b. A three way stop was added at N. Horners / Southlawn on April 14.
- c. In mid-November, northbound Maryland Avenue speed limits will be adjusted to better reflect prevailing conditions. From I-270 to Monument Street, the speed limit will be lowered from 35 to 30 mph. From Monument Street to Argyle, the speed limit will be raised from 25 to 30 mph, as speeding tickets have been thrown out due to the topography of the street (judge decision). Finally, a speed sensor sign will be installed between Argyle and South Washington Street supporting the 25 mph zone. Staff has contacted New Mark Commons, West End, and a resident on Maryland Avenue (sign installation) to gain consensus for the implementation of this plan.

9. Street Lights in Pedestrian Activity Areas

A significant amount of work has been underway to improve street lighting in pedestrian activity areas. This section summarizes projects which are related to pedestrian / bike safety.

- a. Falls Grove: 57 existing, but inoperable, streetlights were marked the week of November 17. These outages have been reported to Falls Grove Associates.
- b. Spot Intersections: Streetlights at MD 28 / MD 586 / MD 911 are under review for improvements.

II. Traffic Calming (Cut-Through Traffic/Speed)

Below are project currently underway:

1. Hurley Avenue: Work 100% complete on Bouldercrest traffic circle. Design on road narrowing (phase 2) devices is 90% complete, construction Spring 2004. Design & utility work on second circle 100% complete, project assigned to contract management division for construction. *Construction work 75% complete.*
2. Dundee Street: Project 99% complete, only minor landscaping enhancements remain. Construction complete on medians and road narrowings. Edge lines were added June 25.
3. Watts Branch Parkway: Project on hold at request of community. Staff attended the HOA annual meeting on June 16 to discuss Watts Branch Parkway concepts. Met with resident on 7/22 to discuss median at Aintree. On August 8, the Rockshire HOA President called and asked to defer project until further notice. A follow-up written request for delay of the project was received from the HOA by staff as well.
4. Glenora Lane: Project 100% complete. AM turn restriction from eastbound Darnestown Road to southbound Glenora Lane was implemented in late August. Police to monitor violators. As a follow-up to an 11/5 neighborhood meeting, staff will count traffic to assess effectiveness of restriction. Staff may extend restriction to 6:30 AM if problem shifted earlier.

5. N. Horners Lane: Project substantially complete. Roadway has been marked for construction, which should commence in late November. Contract management division will manage the construction. Project includes medians and other related pedestrian safety improvements which should also calm traffic. Basic construction is complete, follow-up signing, striping and landscaping to occur as weather permits.
6. Baltimore Road (MD 28 to Twinbrook Parkway): Concept design complete. Met with Burgundy Estates on 7/31 to discuss implementation. Community meetings and next steps to begin early winter 2003-4. Engineering work for a raised intersection at Woodburn is underway.
7. Incomplete Traffic Calming requests for FY '02:
 - Winding Rose (85th %- 35)
8. Traffic Calming requests for FY '04:
 - Crawford Drive (85th %- 34)
 - S. Washington (85th %- 34). Met with residents to discuss options week of November 3. Staff is working with residents to locate one or more speed humps.
 - Grandin Ave. (85th %- 36)
 - Williams Street: May restrict turns from Great Falls Road in AM as part of Town Center Redevelopment.
 - Charles Street (does not meet criteria)
 - Atlantic Ave.

III. Pilot Neighborhood Bus Shuttle Service

Using developer contributions and a state grant, Rockville Transportation staff will be installing 25 new bus shelters over the next several months. Currently, 18 shelters exist citywide. Based on the locations of the developers, shelters will be installed at the following locations:

1. One shelter at 355 & Halpine
2. Two shelters at Maryland Ave. and E. Jefferson St.
3. One shelter at Tower Oaks Blvd. and Access Ramp to I-270
4. Two shelters at E. Jefferson St. at Congressional Plaza

The remaining 19 shelters will be installed incrementally through next August. Locations are being determined based on ridership numbers and developer contributions. A map of the shelter locations will be completed by October 31.

IV. Town Center Redevelopment: Comprehensive Transportation Review

1. Civil Engineering: Staff has been working with the developer to (a) align Maryland Avenue and Market Street; (b) redesign Middle Lane and Beall Avenue to accommodate additional vehicles, bike lanes, and wider sidewalks; and (c) ensure quality loading facilities and efficient driveway

locations throughout the site.

2. Traffic Engineering: Year 2025 traffic forecasts were evaluated to plan for proper queuing and traffic control at the intersections within the property, as well as along Beall Avenue and Middle Lane.
3. Traffic Impact Analysis: On November 24, staff completed a traffic impact study for the Town Square development, using Montgomery County procedures. The final multi-modal report, including relief from the TDM and multi-modal program, is complete.
In January 2003, staff completed collecting and processing traffic counts for 63 intersections in the Town Center & surrounding areas. In February, staff completed the congestion analysis for the intersections, determining levels of service and queuing capacities. On March 7, staff finished the draft year 2006 forecast for future conditions, assuming all approved developments have been constructed and occupied. On March 24, staff completed assessing the impact of adding the FRIT development, determining the marginal increase in traffic impacts associated with the development. Future steps include: (a) adding additional redevelopment north of Beall Avenue (May); and (b) finalizing future transportation network for Town center area (June).
4. Multi-modal Analysis: Complete, conveyed to Mayor & Council 4/17/03. Existing conditions for walking, biking, and transit is complete. Staff finished the draft year 2006 requirements for future conditions on March 24.
5. Traffic Calming / Permit Parking: All residential streets accessing the Town Center are currently under review for potential traffic calming / pedestrian safety enhancements. The final concept plan has been completed in draft – specific components will require neighborhood participation. Staff has met with East Rockville and Lincoln Park to discuss the plan. Discussions with the West End were tabled due to interest in the shopping center relocation.
6. Recommendations sent to Planning Commission 8/7/03. Planning Commission approved PDP, including initial transportation recommendations.

V. Summary of Construction Projects “in the Pipeline”

a. MD 28 @ Shell Station	Redesign sent to SHA for approval
b. Hurley Avenue Traffic Calming	1 st & 2 nd circle operational
c. E. Gude / Taft Traffic Signal Reconstruct	95% complete
d. MD 28 / MD 189 Intersection Improvements	Concept designs complete Spring 2004 construction, ped. heads operational
e. MD 28 / Research Blvd.: WB to NB 2 nd right.	To begin late Spring 2004
f. North Horners Traffic Calming	Substantially complete
g. I-270 / MD 28/ Nelson St.	Plan received, construction Fall
h. Baltimore Rd. Traffic Calming	Spring 2004
i. Halpine Rd. / Metrorail Station: Median addition	TBA
j. MD 28 (1 st Street) Service Rd.: Mill. Trail 2	TBA

Fallsgrove Transportation Improvements Schedule

a. MD 28 / Shady Grove Road 2x Left	Complete
b. MD 28 / Shady Grove Road Excl. Right	Complete

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c. MD 28 / Gude	Complete
d. Research Blvd. / Shady Grove Road Right TL	Contribution received
e. Rough Grade Spur from Darnestown to Shady Grove	Complete
f. Wootton / Glen Mill Reconfigure Intersection	Complete
	Signal warrant study complete
g. Wootton / Scott Turn Lane & Signal	Complete
h. I-270 / MD 28 / Nelson	Design work underway
i. I-270 / Shady Grove	Attempting to acquire ROW
j. Gude / Gaither	Attempting to acquire ROW
k. Multi-Modal Center	<i>Waiting for IT closeout</i>
l. Live Where You Work Program	Underway, 1 st Candidates
	Submitted to City
m. Perimeter Shared Path / Access to Darnestown	Path complete on western corner
	(access to shopping area),
	Signal warrant study complete
	for Darnestown/ Glenora